pursuance of the recommendations of the Mandal Commission provide for reservation of 27 per cent of the vacancies in civil posts and services under the Government of India to be filled through direct recruitment for the OBCs.

(b) No specific violation of Union Government's instructions by any Department in this regard has come to notice.

(c) Does not arise.

Discretionary Quota

5216. KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to abolish allotment of quarters under Minister's discretionary quota keeping in view the high scale irregularities in this regard;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to appoint a high powered committee to look into each case of discretionary quota; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (d) Government have directed that all discretionary quotas hitherto enjoyed by the Ministers regarding out-of-turn allotments of Government accommodation stand abolished. In cases where it is considered absolutely necessary to make a small number of out-of-turn allotments of accommodation, guidelines/rules and terms & conditions to govern such allotments should be determined by Cabinet Committee on Accommodation. A specifically constituted Committee will process and recommend such allotments. Arrangements shall also be made for publication of the grant of such out-of-turn allotments made following this procedure every quarter.

[English]

Power Projects in Punjab

5217. SHRI DARBARA SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals regarding power projects have been received by the Union Government from the Punjab Government for clearance and financial assistance for power projects during the last three years;

(b) the number of projects which have been cleared during the period; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to clear all pending projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) No proposal for power projects have been received from the Government of Punjab by the Central Electricity Authority for techno-economic clearance during the last three years.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Oil Fields

5218. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of oil fields in the country at present;

(b) the estimated oil reserves and for how long these oil reserves are likely to last; and

(c) the percentage of domestic requirement met from these reserves ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) A total of 194 oil fields/structures have been discovered in the country including those in the offshore.

(b) The estimated balance recoverable reserves of oil in the country as on 1.4.96 are of the order of 738.92 million tonnes. Based on the production level of 1995-96, these reserves are expected to last for about 21 years.

(c) As per OEB 1996-97, about 55.17% of crude oil requirement is estimated to be met from indigenous source.

[Translation]

Million Wells Scheme

5219. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of wells to be dug in the country during the current year under Million Wells Scheme, State-wise;

(b) the number of SCs/STs likely to get jobs under the said scheme particularly in U.P.; and

(c) the funds allocated to the State Governments under the scheme during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Under the Million Wells Scheme (MWS) where wells are not feasible due to geological factors, the amount allocated may be utilised for other schemes of minor irrigation like irrigation tanks, water harvesting structures and also for development of lands belonging to small and marginal farmers. Therefore, no targets are fixed under MWS.

(c) The information is as per Statement attached.